

Appl. No.: 09/973,344
TC/A.U.: 1732 Docket No.: B01-31
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) Method of making golf ball cores including the steps of:
forming at least one preform;
measuring each preform;
using the measurements to determine a measured volume of each preform;
comparing the measured volume of each preform to a predetermined standard preform volume;
advancing each preform to a spherical cavity if the measured volume is substantially equal to the predetermined standard preform volume.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including providing at least one pair of half-molds to form the spherical cavity; and after the step of advancing each preform closing each pair of half-molds such that the half-molds move with respect to one another into alignment about each preform
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein during the step of closing the half-molds the molds move along a first closing direction and move along a second direction angularly offset from the first direction.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second direction is transverse to the first direction.
5. (Original) Method of processing preforms for making golf ball cores including the steps of:
forming at least one preform;
measuring each preform; and
using the measurements to determine a measured volume of each preform.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of forming at least one preform further includes extruding a material through a die to form an extrudate and cutting the extrudate to form preform.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of extruding further includes continuously extruding the material.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of measuring each preform further includes using at least one laser micrometer to measure each preform.
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of measuring each preform further includes providing at least one camera and taking at least one image of each preform with the camera.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of measuring each preform further includes measuring the length of each preform and measuring the diameter of each preform.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of measuring each preform further includes determining an area pixel count and a diameter pixel count from each image and using the counts to determined the measured volume of the preform.
12. (Original) The method of claim 5, further including comparing the measured volume of the preform to a predetermined standard preform volume.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including advancing each preform to a mold if the measured volume is substantially equal to the predetermined standard preform volume.
14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, further including providing a visual cue if the measured volume is substantially unequal to the predetermined standard preform volume.

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15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, further including providing an audible cue if the measured volume is substantially unequal to the predetermined standard preform volume.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including directing each preform away from a mold if the measured volume is substantially unequal to the predetermined standard preform volume.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including modifying a rate of cutting if the measured volume is substantially unequal to the predetermined standard preform volume until the measured volume is substantially equal to the predetermined standard preform volume.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of modifying the rate of cutting is automatic.

19-30. (Cancelled).